

Memorandum

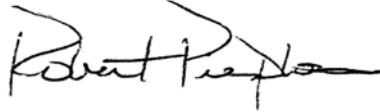
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To: DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS, Construction
CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS
SENIOR CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS
RESIDENT ENGINEERS, Construction

Date: October 27, 2003

File: Division of Construction
CPD 03-8

From: ROBERT PIEFLOW
Chief
Division of Construction



Subject: Reinforcing Steel Shortage

In accordance with provisions regarding shortage of materials in Section 8-1.07, "Liquidated Damages" of the *Standard Specifications*, an industry wide shortage of reinforcing steel on the west coast currently exists. This shortage may continue through the first quarter of 2004, at which time reinforcing steel production by steel mills is expected to meet demand. To minimize impacts to contracts the following interim contract administrative actions should be considered.

For non-Toll Program projects, Office of Structure Design has approved an interim substitution of bar reinforcement meeting the requirements in American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Designation: A 615 (Grade 60)/A 615M (Grade 420) for ASTM Designation: A 706/A 706M bar reinforcing steel when requested by the contractor for certain elements of the work. Project specific design concurrence for a contract change order to allow this substitution will not be required for the following elements of work:

- Bridge deck transverse reinforcing
- Box girder bridge soffit transverse reinforcing
- Girder stirrups
- *Standard Plans* retaining walls without sound walls; Types 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
- Approach slabs
- Culverts
- Barrier railings

While it may be possible to substitute reinforcing steel in some bridge members other than those listed above when requested by the contractor, it is important that substitutions not be allowed in seismic critical bridge elements. For elements of work other than those listed above,

the resident engineer will need to obtain specific concurrence from the design engineer before a contract change order is prepared.

For Toll Program projects, no interim substitution approval has been obtained from the Office of Structure Design. On these projects, resident engineers will need to obtain project specific design concurrence from the design engineer, for any contractor-requested substitution, prior to preparing a contract change order.

Both contractors and resident engineers must be aware that welding of ASTM Designation: A 615/ A 615M reinforcing steel will not be allowed regardless of the proposed use. This constraint may further influence the substitution proposal because of its impracticality with certain construction methods.

Resident engineers must ensure that the correct grade and designation of reinforcing steel is placed in the correct locations and accurately documented on the as-built plans.

The attached sample contract change order and contract change order memorandum may be modified for use on contracts where concurrence has been obtained for a contractor requested substitution. Time extension requests associated with the shortage of material should be addressed in conformance with Section 3-806B, "Shortage of Material," of the *Construction Manual* and Section 8-1.07, "Liquidated Damages," of the *Standard Specifications*. Project delays due solely to a shortage of material are excusable (a time extension may be granted) and non-compensable (no additional compensation is warranted).

This memorandum serves as the Division of Construction's authorization of approval for reinforcing steel substitution contract change orders as discussed in this memorandum. Transmittals to the Division of Construction contract change order desk will not be required for this change.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this construction procedures directive, please contact Jim Cotey, Acting Chief, Office of Contract Administration at (916) 657-5170.

Attachments